(b) The terms of reference of the Coordination Centre are as under:

(i) To review the status of the activities of left wing extremist groups in the four affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa;

(ii) to monitor the progress of the Plan of Action in respect of each State; and

(iii) to make recommendations, both on development and security aspects of the problem for their resolution.

The Coordination Centre is headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the four affected States, as Members.

(c) The districts primarily affected by Left Wing Extremism in these States are as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh: Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Khammam, Medak and Nalgonda.

Madhya Pradesh: Bastar, Balaghat and Rajnandgaon.

Maharashtra: Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, and Bhandara.

Orissa: Malkangiri, Ganjam, Koraput, Gajapati and Rayagada.

(d) Central Government has taken adequate measures to help the States to fight the menace. These include holding of coordination meetings with the States concerned as well as with the various intelligence and investigating agencies of the Central Government to exchange information, share intelligence, plan strategy and take coordinated action. In certain special circumstances financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons. Training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations has also been arranged. Central Government in consultation with the concerned States has drawn up an Action Plan in this regard which includes:

(i) Ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in naxalite affected areas.

(ii) Having a common communication systems.

(iii) Setting up a Control Room in each State.

(iv) Joint patrolling.

(v) Launching of area Domination programme among the States.

(vi) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned states.

(vii) Training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations.

State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to implement the above Action Plan. Action taken by the States is being reviewed from time to time.

Militancy in J&K

4636. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps have been taken in pursuance of the new policy, the so called pro-active policy, which take place of the earlier "reaction policy" to deal with militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) what positive results have followed the adoption of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) With a view to tackling the militancy problem sponsored from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes inter-alia strengthening border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive action against them, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising development

programmes and deepening the democratic process etc.

2. While the number of militants killed in June this year is higher than that of May, it is not possible to make an immediate assessment of the overall results of the policy. The Kashmir militancy is sponsored, aided and abetted by Pakistan, and thus it requires sustained and systematic efforts to tackle it.

Visit of Home Minister to Jammu and Kashmir

4637. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he again paid a visit to the terrorist hit areas of Jammu following the cold blooded murder of 25 or more persons belonging to two marriage parties;

(b) what were the main observations of his team and what relief has so far been paid to the families of victims;

(c) the number of persons including women, children killed at the hands of militants in Jammu and Kashmir during the period since March, 1998, indicating the details of the incidents of militancy, and the number of militants killed or apprehended in connection therewith; and

(d) what effective steps have been and are being taken to deal with militants including foreign mercenaries engaged in militancy and related activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During their visit to Chapnari and Prem Nagar (both located within a short distance of Doda), the Home Minister and Officers accompanying him interacted with members of public available at the spot including survivors of the incident and members of the victim families. The Home Minister expressed his concern at such incidents and sympathy for the survivors. He also assured them that efforts are being made to ensure their security. Exgratia relief is paid to the families of the victims by the State Government as per standard norms fixed by them.

(c) The number of civilians killed during the period from 1st March 1998 to 15th July, 1998 is 337. Some of the major incidents perpetrated by the militants recently include killing of 26 persons at Parankot and Dhakikot villages in Distt. Udhampur on 17/18 April, 1998, killing of 9 persons in Doda and 4 persons in Surankot in Poonch District between May 4-6, 1998 and killing 25 persons of marriage parties in Chapnari village of Doda District on 19th June, 1998. As informed by the State Government, total number of incidents of militancy from 1st March, 1998 to 15th July, 1998 have been 1068. During this period 280 militants were killed and 403 apprehended.

(d) Intensive anti-militancy operations are being undertaken. The security forces/States Police have been redeployed at the strategic places to instill confidence in the people in the vulnerable areas. Close vigil is also being kept by the Security Forces and the intelligence agencies along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. System of Village Defence Committee is being strengthened.

Creation of Ministry of Border Security in Gujarat

4638. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has caused a direct infringement on the domain of the Central Government by creating a Ministry of Border Security in the State as the Centre has the sole constitutional authority to provide security to the country's frontiers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on this extraordinary development in Gujarat?